

# Office of Children's Services Out of Home Children

Data extracted Monday March 14, 2016 from Alaska's ORCARPT database.

Reporting period is the most recently completed Five Calendar Years.

Field definitions and information about the data in this report follow the tables below.

Click to view charts of Out Of Home data based on [months](#) or [years](#).

## Count of Children in Out-of-Home Placement during each of the last Five Calendar Years

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Anchorage	994	1,059	1,176	1,322	1,580
Northern	465	422	510	575	671
Southcentral	710	716	723	832	926
Southeast	239	245	251	255	269
Western	327	339	243	277	281
Alaska, unique count (includes children in Trial Home Visits)	2,733	2,776	2,902	3,254	3,723

Count in Trial Home Visits during period*	645	625	640	704	850
Percent in Trial Home Visits during period*	23.6 %	22.5 %	22.1 %	21.6 %	22.8 %

Removals during the period	982	1,017	1,078	1,342	1,492
Discharges * during the period	980	944	988	1,027	978

\* Due to administrative processing, there may be a significant lag for entry of discharge data into ORCA, which may affect reporting accuracy for recent periods. All data will be refreshed in subsequent reports. Future documentation of discharges may increase reporting for Discharges while decreasing reporting for Out-Of-Home and Trial Home Visit.

## OCS Out-of-Home Cases during each of the Last Five Calendar Years

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Anchorage	658	708	770	848	918
Northern	283	262	309	344	373
Southcentral	445	444	474	538	568
Southeast	168	166	166	170	181
Western	157	161	117	135	136
Alaska, unique count	1,710	1,735	1,835	2,032	2,169

## Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2015

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	944	403	571	165	187	2,270
OOH children last day of the year	1,205	480	722	196	182	2,785
OOH children during year	1,580	671	926	269	281	3,723
OOH cases during year	918	373	568	181	136	2,169
Children removed during year	646	278	363	104	101	1,492
Children discharged during year	386	201	212	73	106	978

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,088
Foster Family Relative Home	1,037
Group Home	82
Institution	89
Other	18
Pending Discharge	34
Pre-Adoptive	47
Runaway	15
Supervised Independent Living	1
Trial Home Visit	374

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	285
Child Aged Out	51
Custody Released to Relative	25
Death Of Child	3
Guardianship	33
Reunification	512
Runaway - Custody Released	9
Transfer To Another Agency	1
Transfer to DJJ	2
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	57

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	616	231	378	92	95	1,412
Female Child	589	249	344	104	87	1,373
Child Age 0-2	315	97	163	39	25	639
Child Age 3-5	277	98	128	55	35	593
Child Age 6-8	203	87	133	37	42	502
Child Age 9-11	139	71	118	25	30	383
Child Age 12-14	128	60	78	13	28	307
Child Age 15+	143	67	102	27	22	361

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,508
Non-native Child	1,146
Child Race Unknown	131

## Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2014

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	802	351	496	154	153	1,956
OOH children last day of the year	933	406	582	162	188	2,271
OOH children during year	1,322	575	832	255	277	3,254
OOH cases during year	848	344	538	170	135	2,032
Children removed during year	536	234	339	108	125	1,342
Children discharged during year	404	179	254	100	90	1,027

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	921
Foster Family Relative Home	857
Group Home	73
Institution	93
Other	12
Pending Discharge	29
Pre-Adoptive	44
Runaway	14
Supervised Independent Living	8
Trial Home Visit	220

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	352
Child Aged Out	59
Custody Released to Relative	17
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	37
Reunification	520
Runaway - Custody Released	15
Transfer To Another Agency	3
Transfer to DJJ	4
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	18

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	478	196	278	79	97	1,128
Female Child	455	210	304	83	91	1,143
Child Age 0-2	232	92	143	38	31	536
Child Age 3-5	206	88	111	42	32	479
Child Age 6-8	165	78	94	26	35	398
Child Age 9-11	117	55	83	15	33	303
Child Age 12-14	95	52	66	16	27	256
Child Age 15+	118	41	85	25	30	299

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,347
Non-native Child	844
Child Race Unknown	80

## Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2013

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	746	287	477	179	176	1,865
OOH children last day of the year	811	353	497	156	152	1,969
OOH children during year	1,176	510	723	251	243	2,902
OOH cases during year	770	309	474	166	117	1,835
Children removed during year	440	232	260	77	69	1,078
Children discharged during year	381	170	242	101	94	988

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	843
Foster Family Relative Home	664
Group Home	78
Institution	99
Other	9
Pending Discharge	23
Pre-Adoptive	33
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	6
Trial Home Visit	201

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	355
Child Aged Out	33
Custody Released to Relative	17
Death Of Child	4
Guardianship	29
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	498
Runaway - Custody Released	34
Transfer to DJJ	4
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	12

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	433	171	239	74	75	992
Female Child	378	182	258	82	77	977
Child Age 0-2	193	81	107	27	13	421
Child Age 3-5	184	73	97	31	30	415
Child Age 6-8	126	70	85	28	27	336
Child Age 9-11	92	45	63	28	22	250
Child Age 12-14	105	44	59	25	24	257
Child Age 15+	111	40	86	17	36	290

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,232
Non-native Child	708
Child Race Unknown	29

## Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2012

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	653	297	473	135	232	1,790
OOH children last day of the year	756	283	486	178	175	1,878
OOH children during year	1,059	422	716	245	339	2,776
OOH cases during year	708	262	444	166	161	1,735
Children removed during year	414	126	250	117	110	1,017
Children discharged during year	314	140	248	75	167	944

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	798
Foster Family Relative Home	645
Group Home	75
Independent Living	1
Institution	92
Other	14
Pending Discharge	33
Pre-Adoptive	27
Runaway	18
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	171

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	305
Child Aged Out	43
Custody Released to Relative	26
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	23
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	496
Runaway - Custody Released	14
Transfer To Another Agency	2
Transfer to DJJ	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	28

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	383	125	241	86	89	924
Female Child	373	158	245	92	86	954
Child Age 0-2	201	63	99	41	22	426
Child Age 3-5	150	71	100	34	36	391
Child Age 6-8	115	47	70	30	29	291
Child Age 9-11	98	34	73	27	24	256
Child Age 12-14	92	27	64	15	28	226
Child Age 15+	100	41	80	31	36	288

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,151
Non-native Child	701
Child Race Unknown	26

## Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2011

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children first day of the year	630	308	486	182	181	1,787
OOH children last day of the year	649	291	467	137	245	1,789
OOH children during year	994	465	710	239	327	2,733
OOH cases during year	658	283	445	168	157	1,710
Children removed during year	369	165	234	57	157	982
Children discharged during year	350	182	253	102	93	980

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of Year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	763
Foster Family Relative Home	639
Group Home	77
Institution	104
Other	8
Pending Discharge	19
Pre-Adoptive	18
Runaway	7
Supervised Independent Living	3
Trial Home Visit	151

Reason for all Discharges during the Year	
Adoption	328
Child Aged Out	41
Custody Released to Relative	16
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	29
Released Self/Emancipation	3
Reunification	523
Runaway - Custody Released	15
Transfer To Another Agency	1
Transfer to DJJ	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	19

OOH Demographics on Last Day	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	349	134	236	67	124	910
Female Child	300	157	231	70	121	879
Child Age 0-2	173	58	90	22	44	387
Child Age 3-5	116	87	109	26	42	380
Child Age 6-8	119	45	75	22	42	303
Child Age 9-11	70	33	65	18	43	229
Child Age 12-14	81	30	57	17	27	212
Child Age 15+	90	38	71	32	47	278

Native Status of OOH Children on Last Day of Year	
Native Child	1,140
Non-native Child	620
Child Race Unknown	29

## About the data in this report

This report summarizes statistics for children who were in Alaska's Office of Children's Services (OCS) Out of Home (OOH) removals during all or part of each period being reported.

Removal for OOH placement is the last option considered when reasonable efforts to protect a child in his or her own home have been exhausted by OCS. The first preference considered in all out-of-home placements for a child or youth is a relative's home. When it is not possible to place a child with a relative it is necessary to place the child in a licensed foster home. Residential care facilities may offer short-term emergency shelter as well as more long-term residential treatment.

"Unique count" indicates that each child (or case, for case counts) is counted only once per reported category. However, some out of home individuals may have moved between regions during the reporting period. Therefore, regional demographic counts may not add to statewide Alaska totals.

Children removed on the first day of reporting period are included in counts for OOH on the first day of the period. Children discharged on the last day of reporting period are included in counts and demographics for OOH on the last day of the period. Therefore, last day counts will not equal the sum of first day counts plus removals and minus discharges during the period.

Child age is calculated based on discharge date if the child was discharged during the reporting period, otherwise child age calculation is based on the end of the reporting period.

Native Status is determined by reported race of either Alaskan Native or Native American.

To protect the privacy of individuals in low-count groups, regional breakouts are not included for monthly reports and for some yearly summary tables.

Subsequent reports covering the same reporting periods will contain updated statistics.

## OCS Out of Home Web Report Field Definitions

**Adoption** – Transfer of the legal relation of parent to a person not related to the child by birth, with the same mutual rights and obligations that existed between the child and his or her birth parents.

**Case** - A household unit included in one or more Initial Assessment.

**Day** - For purposes of Foster Care a day is midnight to midnight. This report counts a child as Out of Home on the day of Removal but not on the day of Discharge. Therefore, children discharged on the first day of the reporting period will not be included in counts for the start of that reporting period.

**Discharge** - The point in time when a child is no longer in Out of Home Care.

**Guardianship** - A person outside of the child's household fulfills some of the responsibilities of a legal parent while the courts or birthparents may continue to hold other legal responsibilities for the child. Guardianship is subject to ongoing supervision by the court and ends by court order or when the child reaches the age of majority. Guardianship may be used as an alternative to Adoption in some kinship care situations in which a child's relative is assuming a parental role but prefers not to adopt. Guardians may be entitled to the same benefits as Foster or Adoptive parents.

**Native Child** - Any mention of Alaska Native or American Indian race.

**Office of Children's Services (OCS)** - A division of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services.

**ORCA** - Online Resources for the Children of Alaska, OCS's main database.

**Out-of-Home Placement (OOH or OOHP) / Removal:** Placing the child in the physical care of someone other than the child's Caregiver. Removal may include situations in which the child is living in the same residence as the Caregiver, but the Caregiver's ability to exercise physical care and control of the child

**Placement** - The physical setting in which a child resides after Removal; that is, the resultant Foster Care setting. A new Placement setting results when the Foster Care setting changes, for example, when a child moves from one Foster family home to another or to a Group Home or Institution.

**Region, as used in this Out of Home report** - One of areas of five Alaska, based on the office of the primary OCS worker responsible for the Case at Discharge or, if not Discharged during the period, at the end of the reporting period.

**Removal** - The physical act of a child being taken from his or her normal place of residence, by court order or a voluntary placement agreement, and placed in a substitute care setting, or the removal of Custody from the parent or relative Guardian pursuant to a court order or voluntary placement agreement which permits the child to remain in a substitute care setting.

**Reporting Period** – Complete month or calendar year, as specified in the report. Owing to Unique Counts, data reported on a monthly basis will not necessarily sum to annual figures.

**Unique Count** – An unduplicated count within the Reporting Period; that is, each person, ID, or combination of person or ID with other factors is counted only once regardless of the number of times represented within the reported group during the reporting period. For example, a child out of home in two regions during a reporting period will be counted once for each region where region is being reported, but only once where count for all of Alaska is being reported. Therefore total of all regions may not equal statewide count.



### Discharge Reasons:

- **Adoption** - Termination of all legal relationships between the adopted person and the natural parents and other relatives of the adopted person, so that the adopted person thereafter is a stranger to the former relatives for all purposes; to create the relationship of parent and child between petitioner and the adopted person, as if the adopted person were a legitimate blood descendant of the petitioner, for all purposes.
- **Child Aged Out** – Child between 18-21 exited OCS custody based on their age. Child may enter an independent living arrangement. .
- **Custody Released to Relative** - Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child has been transferred to a relative of the child.
- **Death of Child** – The child has died, not necessarily as a result of maltreatment.
- **Guardianship** - A legal arrangement where a person or institution is appointed as a guardian to make decisions for an incapacitated person - decisions about housing, medical care, legal issues, and services.
- **Reunification** - Discharge from Out of Home Placement to reunite child and family.
- **THV Expired - Custody Retained** – A trial home visit exceeded six months or a time period ordered by a court. If a trial home visit exceeds this time limit, or if a child is placed at home and custody lapses and the child is placed in out-of-home care again, it is considered a second removal from home,
- **Transfer to another Agency** – Transfer of child Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child to a tribe or other non-OCS entity.
- **Transfer to DJJ** – Transfer of Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child to Alaska's Department of Juvenile Justice, an agency is in the same Department as OCS. DJJ has a different database of record, but OCS is responsible for paying Foster Care for these children.
- **Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction** - Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child was transferred to a Native tribe.

### Placement Settings:

- **Foster Home** - An OCS approved home in which an adult head of the household provides 24-hour care on a continuing basis to one or more children who are apart from their principal Caregiver. The adult may be a Relative or Non-Relative. Non-relative Foster Homes must be licensed by OCS.
- **Group Home** - A home that cares for more than three, but no more than eight, children unrelated to the Foster parent.
- **Institution** - A child care facility operated by a public or private agency and providing 24-hour care and/or treatment for children who require separation from their own homes and group living experience. These facilities may include: child care institutions, residential treatment facilities, maternity homes, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.
- **Missing Documentation** – A placement was ended but insufficient information was entered into ORCA to determine subsequent placement setting.
- **Pending Discharge** - Foster Care placement has ended for reasons such as Adoption, Guardianship, Aging-Out, Emancipation, Death of Child, or other reason to release State legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child, but Discharge paperwork had not been completed at the end of the Reporting Period.
- **Pre-Adoptive** - A home in which a child is placed with a family with the understanding that the family plans to adopt the child.
- **Runaway** – A child who left the Provider he/she was placed with, whose whereabouts are either currently unknown or who is staying in an unapproved setting, and for whom the State retains legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child.
- **Supervised Independent Living** – A type of voluntary extended Foster Care placement where young adults can live on their own, while still getting casework and support services to help them become independent and self-sufficient.
- **Trial Home Visit (THV)** – The child has been in a Foster Care placement, but, under continuing OCS supervision, is returned to the child's principal Caregiver for a limited period of time. If the THV is successful legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child may be returned to the principal Caregiver.